

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

**Agricultural Enterprise Areas
Summary**

ANTIGO FLATS AEA (2010; Modified 2012)

Overview

- ◆ Langlade and Marathon Counties: Towns of Ackley, Antigo, Neva, Peck, Polar, Price, Rolling, Vilas and Harrison
- ◆ 74,104
- ◆ 52 total petitioners
- ◆ Potatoes, processing vegetables, dairy

Goals

- ◆ Develop local and regional markets for certified potato seed, dairy, certified small grain seed, wood technology and other local commodities
- ◆ Innovation and promotion of area-grown and processed agricultural products and increase name recognition
- ◆ Enhance support to agricultural business through technical assistance, agricultural education and research
- ◆ Develop opportunities for agricultural tourism
- ◆ Assess natural resource quality and quantity and assist farmers with soil and water conservation to protect environmental resources
- ◆ Pursue new technologies that provide management and economic benefits to agricultural producers

Items of Note

- ◆ Area encompasses a large glacial outwash plain containing Antigo Silt Loam
 - ◆ Great deal of agricultural investment in the area including a state-of-the-art potato packing facility and warehouse complex and an agricultural packaging company
 - ◆ High number of landowners with farmland preservation agreements
 - ◆ Strong public outreach plan
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ASHIPPUN/OCONOMOWOC AEA (2010)

Overview

- ◆ Dodge and Waukesha Counties; Towns of Ashippun and Oconomowoc
- ◆ 28,841 acres
- ◆ 25 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, cash cropping, beef, lamb, hog, and poultry operations

Goals

- ◆ Encourage re-investment in diverse local farm community and agricultural industry to protect excellent farmland from non-farm development pressures.

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong inter-municipal cooperation between two towns and two counties
- ◆ Diverse cross-section of agriculture
- ◆ Large percentage of farmers under 40
- ◆ “School Farm” located within area to teach agronomy, soil science and conservation, and general biology

BAYFIELD AEA (2010)**Overview**

- ◆ Bayfield County; Town of Bayfield
- ◆ 2,821
- ◆ 5 petitioners
- ◆ Apple, blueberry, raspberry, strawberry, sweet cherry, tart cherry, currant

Goals

- ◆ Protect and strengthen the existing fruit orchards while maintaining sufficient open lands for future expansion of specialty crop production
- ◆ Enhance the profitability of the existing farm operations through capitalization, market development and value-added processing while supporting expansion of specialty crop production through market development recruitment and training of new growers

Items of Note

- ◆ Four fruit farms within AEA permanently protected through town’s PDR program
- ◆ Growers implementing integrated pest management and strategies to prevent pest migration
- ◆ Active agri-tourism in the area
- ◆ Nearby wineries purchase fruit from growers for range of meads, hard cider, apple wines, and sparkling beverages

BLOOMER AREA AEA (2010)**Overview**

- ◆ Chippewa County; Town of Bloomer
- ◆ 4,380 acres
- ◆ 14 petitioners
- ◆ Forage-based dairy, steer, cash grain (soybean and corn)

Goals

- ◆ Establish and maintain a market for specialty soybeans to support a new soybean processing facility

- ◆ Create or upgrade business plans of producers and agri-businesses to build upon existing business relationships and pursue new business ventures
- ◆ Maintain a stable and predictable supply of milk, corn and grain for local markets (dairy, poultry and ethanol)
- ◆ Maintain land and water resources

Items of Note

- ◆ Newly created neighboring processing facility will receive and process local soybeans, limiting transportation costs and facilitating the creation of new jobs in the area
- ◆ Milk, beef and corn produced in the AEA supply regional agri-processors

CADOTT AREA AEA (2010)

Overview

- ◆ Chippewa County; Towns of Goetz, Delmar
- ◆ 1,640 acres
- ◆ 9 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, steer, cash grain (forage, corn, and beans), maple syrup

Goals

- ◆ Develop opportunities for expanded cooperation between farms and agri-business
- ◆ Maintain a stable and predictable supply of milk, grain, maple syrup and forest products
- ◆ Evaluate feasibility of producing and marketing biomass using a small-scale distribution energy production model
- ◆ Conduct voluntary farm energy audits to identify farm-based energy conservation measures
- ◆ Evaluate feasibility of compiling and marketing carbon credits
- ◆ Maintain land and water resources

Items of Note

- ◆ Plan to use a small-scale distributed energy production model to produce and market biomass on a sustained basis
- ◆ All of the petitioning farms are third generation, independently owned, family farm operations
- ◆ Petitioning farms cooperate to exchange equipment and/or labor, and have historically pursued opportunities for joint purchasing and marketing
- ◆ Milk, corn and syrup produced within AEA are used to supply regional agri-processors

BURNETT AEA (2011)

Overview

- ◆ Dodge County; Town of Burnett
- ◆ 14,736 acres
- ◆ 45 petitioners
- ◆ Row crops, dairy and vegetable production

Goals

- ◆ Preserve the Town's agricultural and natural resource land base
- ◆ Support local and regional agricultural related businesses that serve the AEA
- ◆ Strengthen the agricultural foundation and allow agriculture to maintain its viability into the future

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong agriculture infrastructure in the area that is highly supportive of continued agriculture
 - ◆ Diverse investments made to many farms and related agricultural businesses
 - ◆ Existing cooperative ventures between landowners within the proposed area
 - ◆ In close proximity to Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge which provides land use which is mutually beneficial with continued agriculture
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ELBA – PORTLAND AEA (2012)

Overview

- ◆ Dodge County; Towns of Elba and Portland
- ◆ 38,580 acres
- ◆ 86 petitioners
- ◆ Cash cropping and dairy

Goals

- ◆ Protect the agricultural land base and maintain the rural landscape
- ◆ Maintain a strong agricultural community to attract and retain agribusinesses and to encourage future investment in farming operations

Items of Note

- ◆ County is in the top 5 to 10 counties for production of agricultural commodities
 - ◆ Connection to existing rail corridors to transport agricultural products
 - ◆ Strong support for the designation from diverse and numerous cooperators
 - ◆ Adjacent to the mutually beneficial Waterloo State Wildlife Area and the Chub Lake State Wildlife Area and adjacent to the Crawfish River-Waterloo Drumlins which are identified as a special environmental feature in the Wisconsin Land Legacy report
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FAIRFIELD AEA (2011)

Overview

- ◆ Sauk County, Town of Fairfield
- ◆ 9,501 acres
- ◆ 7 petitioners
- ◆ Vegetables, mint, and corn for ethanol

Goals

- ◆ Preserve large tracts of the diverse agricultural land and reduce potential land use conflicts

- ◆ Preserve the large, contiguous expanse of highly productive muck soils which have a well established drainage system
- ◆ Maintain and develop a high level of conservation, water quality and wildlife habitat in the area; in particular build upon the existing FACT partnership to integrate farming and wildlife management

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong existing public/private partnership supports continued agricultural land use while protecting significant wildlife resources
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FIELDS, WATERS AND WOODS AEA (2013)

Overview

- ◆ Ashland and Bayfield Counties: Towns of Marengo, Ashland, White River, Kelly; Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indian Reservation
- ◆ 41,089 acres
- ◆ 8
- ◆ Dairy, beef

Goals

- ◆ Maintain agricultural land base necessary to support continued production, and ongoing growth and diversification of the agricultural economy.
- ◆ Minimize conflict between agricultural and residential land-use through outreach, education, land-use planning, and targeted infrastructure development.
- ◆ Foster diversification to include increased grain, vegetable and specialty crop production
- ◆ Strengthen current livestock agriculture
- ◆ Explore options to reduce fuel and protein expenses through production and processing of oilseed crops
- ◆ Transition management of the farms to the next generation
- ◆ Increase production efficiency through facility modernization
- ◆ Continue to develop managed intensive grazing operations for production of grass-fed beef

Items of Note

- ◆ Established joint marketing effort sustained by producers to sell grass-fed beef, lamb and poultry direct to customers through the South Shore Meats label.
 - ◆ Adoption of managed intensive grazing by area producers.
 - ◆ Investments made to add facilities to produce vegetables, fruits, honey, maple syrup and livestock that allow the products to be marketed directly to consumers.
 - ◆ Increased production of oilseed crops and other grains.
 - ◆ Value-added processing ventures are underway including production of straw pellets for animal bedding and soil improvements
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FRIENDS IN AGRICULTURE AEA (2014)

Overview

- ◆ Clark County: Towns of Fremont and Lynn
- ◆ 16,705
- ◆ 36 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and horticulture

Goals

- ◆ To preserve and promote the agricultural economy and its social, cultural, and economic heritage
- ◆ Assess natural resource quality and quantity and assist farmers with soil and water conservation to protect environmental resources and maintain productive and efficient use of agricultural lands for use by existing, expanding and new agricultural enterprises
- ◆ Develop and implement strategies to minimize land use conflicts
- ◆ Develop joint marketing opportunities for local products
- ◆ Pursue new technologies that provide management and economic benefits to agricultural producers that efficiently utilizes the economies of scale created by large blocks of contiguous farmland
- ◆ Maintain and create economic certainty for farms and agri-businesses desiring to build additional production and processing capacity through reinvesting in their businesses and the local economy.
- ◆ Create the largest contiguous block of working lands by linking to other designated AEAs

Items of Note

- ◆ Clark County has the largest number of dairy farms and the largest producer of milk in Wisconsin
 - ◆ Proximity to important transportation corridors (road and rail) that connect to major metropolitan consumer areas
 - ◆ Significant investments made on individual farms and by local supply and processing businesses, including the expansion of dairy processing and production capacity
 - ◆ Agriculture in the area diversifying to include greenhouses and fresh market vegetables and fruits
 - ◆ Less than 130 acres of the area is considered residential or commercial land use
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GREENVILLE GREENBELT AEA (2014)

Overview

- ◆ Outagamie County: Town of Greenville
- ◆ 1,420
- ◆ 9 petitioners
- ◆ Cash cropping

Goals

- ◆ Ensure that agricultural land identified through town and county planning efforts remains in agricultural use
- ◆ Increase development densities in the urban portion of the Town through subdivision ordinances, and/or development of TDR and PDR programs
- ◆ Establish controls on residential development to promote infill development and to target land adjacent to urban areas
- ◆ Expand the boundary of the AEA to encompass more agricultural land in the Town of Greenville
- ◆ Promote and support good agricultural land management and waste management efforts on private lands
- ◆ Support economic opportunities associated with farming
- ◆ Support the development of ‘grow/eat local’ efforts
- ◆ Provide support to ensure the successful transition of existing farm businesses

Items of Note

- ◆ Extensive planning efforts over the past 10 years support continued agricultural land use in the area
- ◆ Significant effort to provide education and outreach on the importance of the “Greenville Greenbelt”
- ◆ Numerous ag-tourism opportunities and individual investments in the Town of Greenville highlight the agricultural heritage of the area
- ◆ Recent investments in agricultural businesses and the local technical college support continued agriculture in the area

HALFWAY CREEK PRAIRIE AEA (2012)

Overview

- ◆ LaCrosse County; Towns of Onalaska and Holland
- ◆ 1,647 acres
- ◆ 6 petitioners
- ◆ Cash cropping and livestock (dairy and swine)

Goals

- ◆ Protect existing farmland and support current land use goals in local plans
- ◆ Foster the growth of bio-energy opportunities
- ◆ Develop farmland protection strategies specific to the AEA
- ◆ Preserve the land and water resources to support and maintain the economic viability of the expanded farm operations
- ◆ Refine existing production practices and establish new business relationships within the AEA to maintain and enhance a stable and predictable supply of agricultural products to protect the existing infrastructure of agricultural markets and supplies
- ◆ Preserve and enhance existing agri-business relationships within the AEA and those that will directly affect this AEA to maintain and increase the agricultural infrastructure and economic viability of farming in the AEA

Items of Note

- ◆ Diversified ag-related businesses in the area
- ◆ Existing relationships between producers and between producers and local agri-businesses, including hauling and spreading agreements between livestock operators and cash crop producers, and shared trucking and hauling at harvest time
- ◆ Boundary agreement between the Town and the City of Onalaska
- ◆ Located adjacent to the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge and to land covered by conservation easements held by private, non-profit organizations which have complimentary interest in maintaining the agricultural heritage of the area

HEART OF AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND AEA (2011; Modified 2012; Modified 2013, Modified 2014)

Overview

- ◆ Clark and Marathon Counties, Town of Mayville, Colby, Unity, Beaver, Loyal, Weston, York, Brighton, Hull, Frankfort, Holton, Johnson, Bern, McMillan, Eau Pleine
- ◆ 61,179 (225,511)
- ◆ 125 (395) petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and cash crops

Goals

- ◆ To preserve and promote the agricultural economy and its social, cultural, and economic heritage
- ◆ Retain and enhance existing businesses
- ◆ Assure production capacity and protect food security
- ◆ Assess natural resource quality and quantity and assist farmers with soil and water conservation to protect environmental resources
- ◆ Provide tools to control population density and control residential and farming conflicts
- ◆ Develop joint marketing opportunities for local products
- ◆ Pursue new technologies that provide management and economic benefits to agricultural producers that efficiently utilizes the economies of scale created by large blocks of contiguous farmland
- ◆ Maintain and create economic certainty for farms and agri-businesses desiring to build additional production and processing capacity through reinvesting in their businesses and the local economy.

Items of Note

- ◆ Extensive public outreach process inclusive of diverse producers and diverse backgrounds
- ◆ Area number one for dairy production in the state and also supports vegetables, fruit, nursery and bedding plants
- ◆ Strong interest in protecting farmland through farmland preservation agreements
- ◆ Proximity to existing agricultural infrastructure, including the Central WI Agribusiness Innovation Center
- ◆ Recipient of a 2013 Top Rural Development Initiative Award from Wisconsin Rural Partners
- ◆ Working with students from the UW-Madison Urban and Regional Planning department to evaluate and advance economic strategies for the AEA

THE HEADWATERS OF SOUTHEAST MONROE COUNTY AEA

Overview

- ◆ Monroe County: Towns of Clifton, Glendale, Wellington, Wilton
- ◆ 86,306
- ◆ 99 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, cash grain

Goals

- ◆ Preserve the agricultural heritage of the area
- ◆ Build support for the development of future land use plans and policies to ensure the protection of productive agricultural land
- ◆ Foster a conservation movement to protect valuable resources
- ◆ Retain and enhance existing businesses while supporting new investments in agriculture
- ◆ Minimize land use conflicts through available land use tools including farmland preservation agreements

Items of Note

- ◆ Good agricultural infrastructure in place to support the current farms and agricultural businesses
 - ◆ Significant block of agricultural land with limited rural residential development allows the opportunity to establish land use policies and controls to ensure the area remains in agricultural land use
 - ◆ Strong dairy area; also grain and forage, vegetables for direct market, timber
 - ◆ Strong support from landowners and cooperators
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HILBERT AG LAND ON TRACK AEA (2011)

Overview

- ◆ Calumet County, Towns of Brillion, Chilton, Rantoul, Woodville
- ◆ 28,217 acres
- ◆ 17 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and forage crops

Goals

- ◆ Preserve available working lands for current and future agricultural use while guiding residential and other non-agricultural land uses to urban areas
- ◆ Maintain the towns' rural character and limit incompatible land uses
- ◆ Market the area to attract an ag-technology park and/or other businesses seeking a stable, dedicated farming community
- ◆ Aid family farms so they continue into the future
- ◆ Work to attract young farmers to take over existing businesses, bring in new ideas and invest in the future
- ◆ Minimize erosion and protect water quality so farming has a minimal negative impact on the environment and the resources can sustain future crops and dairy operations

Items of Note

- ♦ Many cooperative efforts in the area, including a joint marketing plan for local forage crops, joint purchase and sale of forage feed for dairy, and joint purchase of rail products
 - ♦ Area significant contributor to the success of maintaining two railroads that provide important access to agricultural markets and provide the opportunity take advantage of economies of scale
 - ♦ New alfalfa mill recently opened to pelletize baled alfalfa for global markets
 - ♦ Strong partnerships developed with area technical college, dairy promotion board and forage council
 - ♦ Significant investments made by producers of all sizes and by the supporting agribusinesses
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LA PRAIRIE AEA (2010)**Overview**

- ♦ Rock County; Towns of La Prairie, Turtle
- ♦ 21,093 acres
- ♦ 33 petitioners
- ♦ Sweet peas, sweet corn, snap beans, lima beans, mint

Goal

- ♦ To continue to support a viable agricultural economy while at the same time maintaining a high rural quality of life. This includes maintaining the vegetable supply to support a vegetable processing facility, distribution center and corporate office, and to continue to support field crop research testing in the area

Items of Note

- ♦ Specialty crops such as sweet peas, sweet corn, snap beans, and lima beans grown within AEA shipped to nearby vegetable processor that employs nearly 400 full time employees
 - ♦ Field crop research facility utilizes soils within AEA to support plant breeding research efforts, namely to develop hybrids that will improve drought tolerance and add yield to existing cropland
 - ♦ Nearby mint distillery synthesizes 3,000 acres of peppermint and spearmint oil from plants grown within AEA
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MAPLE GROVE AEA (2010)**Overview**

- ♦ Shawano County; Town of Maple Grove
- ♦ 21,669 acres
- ♦ 8 petitioners
- ♦ Dairy, vegetables, flowers, beef, cash crops

Goals

- ♦ Identify opportunities to increase productivity and cooperation

- ◆ Promote the sale of products within the AEA
- ◆ Support and expand local agriculture related businesses

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong history of agricultural preservation using available land use controls (since 1974)
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to investing in farming operations
- ◆ Strong public outreach effort to reach landowners during petition development
- ◆ Award winning farms (first runners-up for 2009 Outstanding Farmer program; winner of 2004 Outstanding Young Farmer award)

PECATONICA AEA (2012)

Overview

- ◆ Lafayette County: Towns of Argyle, Blanchard and Lamont
- ◆ 45,776 acres
- ◆ 93 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and cash crops

Goals

- ◆ Diminish barriers to starting up a new farming businesses and encourage multi-generational farming
- ◆ Encourage diverse farming practices
- ◆ Attract small-scale cottage agricultural industries
- ◆ Develop training opportunities for local workers in bio-product and food-related industry
- ◆ Develop new products and markets for locally produced, locally branded foods
- ◆ Research and develop products for non-food, bio-industrial products
- ◆ Grow the potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies for on-farm operations and rural areas
- ◆ Establish demonstration projects for innovative and sustainable practices for watershed management and resource conservation

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong dairy community, located near 13 different cheese processing plants, several of which are planning or in the process of future investments.
- ◆ Strong agricultural community with agriculture accounting for 85% of total business sales in the county.
- ◆ Part of broader initiatives including a vegetable production feasibility study and the regional renewable energy opportunity plan for southwest Wisconsin and dairy clustering

RUSH RIVER LEGACY AEA (2010)

Overview

- ◆ St. Croix County; Town of Rush River
- ◆ 8,370 acres
- ◆ 7 petitioners

- ◆ Cash crop, dairy, bison, beef

Goals

- ◆ Preserve existing land necessary to support and expand conventional dairy/beef cow and traditional crop production
- ◆ Preserve and expand existing dairy infrastructure
- ◆ Create opportunities to incubate non-traditional types of agricultural production
- ◆ Foster growth of bio-energy opportunities
- ◆ Encourage conservation and nutrient management planning

Items of Note

- ◆ Petitioners are primarily 3rd and 4th generation farmers
 - ◆ Local agro-tourism promoted by the Silver Bison Ranch
 - ◆ Petitioners part of the Western Wisconsin Renewable Natural Gas Dairy Basin project pipeline project beginning in 2010
 - ◆ Petitioners featured as part of the Alta Advantage 2008 Showcase of “best progressive herds in the USA”
 - ◆ Petitioner is a Green Tier- Tier 1 participant
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SCUPPERNONG AEA (2010)

Overview

- ◆ Jefferson County; Towns of Palmyra, Hebron, Sullivan, Cold Spring
- ◆ 14,015 acres
- ◆ 6 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, beef, broiler, cash and forage crops, vegetables, eggs

Goals

- ◆ Create a climate where current and future landowners within this area are able to feel comfortable about the sustainability of their agricultural investments.

Items of Note

- ◆ Standard Process, which is a large farm and factory for producing and manufacturing vitamins and nutritional supplements, is located in the AEA
 - ◆ Poultry operation compost and pelletizes manure for use as a fertilizer
 - ◆ Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in the area
 - ◆ High diversity of agricultural enterprises located within the area
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SHIELDS – EMMET AEA (2012)

Overview

- ◆ Dodge County: Towns of Shields and Emmet
- ◆ 16,051 acres
- ◆ 46 petitioners
- ◆ Cash cropping and dairy

Goals

- ◆ Enhance the agricultural land base of the towns, improve agricultural operations, and support the rural identity through the use of farmland preservation agreements and the implementation of soil and water conservation plans
- ◆ Encourage the establishment of agribusinesses and the expansion of existing agricultural operations in the towns and the county
- ◆ Encourage non-traditional farming practices, investment in modernized farming equipment, consideration of potential business opportunities, shared farm service, utilization of new resources

Items of Note

- ◆ County is in the top 5 to 10 counties for production of agricultural commodities
- ◆ Conservation easement donation program in place with one easement in the area
- ◆ Strong support for the designation from diverse and numerous cooperators
- ◆ Cooperative boundary agreement between City of Watertown and Town of Emmet
- ◆ In close proximity to Mud Lake Wildlife Area which is mutually beneficial to continued agriculture and located within an important glacial-drumlin landscape which is used for research and study

SOUTHWEST LEAD MINE REGION AEA (2013)**Overview**

- ◆ Lafayette County: Towns of Gratiot, Monticello, Shullsburg, Wiota
- ◆ 103,143 acres
- ◆ 133 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and cash crops

Goals

- ◆ Support multi-generational farming by alleviating pressure with high and variable start-up farming costs for younger generations looking to develop agriculture
- ◆ Protect the historic and cultural character of the landscape through use of land use tools
- ◆ Encourage diverse farming practices and diverse land management
- ◆ Protect against development pressure
- ◆ Attract small-scale cottage agricultural industries
- ◆ Develop training opportunities for local workers in bio-product and food-related industry
- ◆ Expand market development for local food processing
- ◆ Develop new products and markets for locally produced, locally branded foods
- ◆ Research and develop products for non-food, bio-industrial products
- ◆ Grow the potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies for on-farm operations and rural areas
- ◆ Establish demonstration projects for innovative and sustainable practices for watershed management and resource conservation

Items of Note

- ♦ Strong dairy community, located near 13 different dairy processing plants, several of which are planning or in the process of future investments.
 - ♦ Strong agricultural community with agriculture accounting for 85% of total business sales in the county.
 - ♦ Part of broader initiatives including a vegetable production feasibility study and the regional renewable energy opportunity plan for southwest Wisconsin and dairy clustering
 - ♦ Growing livestock industry in the county.
 - ♦ Numerous conservation projects in the area.
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SQUAW LAKE AEA (2011)

Overview

- ♦ Polk and St. Croix Counties; Towns of Alden, Farmington, Star Prairie, Somerset
- ♦ 9,607 acres
- ♦ 15 petitioners
- ♦ Cash crops, dairy

Goal

- ♦ Guarantee the ability of transitioning current production capabilities to the next generation of producers and the generations to follow

Items of Note

- ♦ Former Priority Watershed project area
 - ♦ Some landowners in area are transitioning from commodity to value-added products such as organic dairy, organic vegetable, sunflowers for bird seed, soybeans and winter rye for the Asian market
 - ♦ Part of the Oceloa Village and School District initiative to become 100% self-sufficient for food and fuel by 2025
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TOWN OF DUNN AEA (2010)

Overview

- ♦ Dane County; Town of Dunn
- ♦ 10,038 acres
- ♦ 6 petitioners
- ♦ Cash crops, dairy, market garden, CSA farm, nurseries, pork, sheep

Goals

- ♦ Ensure preservation of land base and infrastructure necessary to allow agriculture to flourish
- ♦ Encourage investment in existing operations
- ♦ Maintain agriculture to support agricultural related business

Items of Note

- ♦ Approximately 2,500 acres within the AEA are permanently protected by conservation easements

- ◆ Town of Dunn established local Purchase of Development Rights program and has invested over \$2.5 million in the program
 - ◆ Wide variety of agricultural enterprises are supported by local markets and institutions
 - ◆ Strong local land use controls help restrict conversion of agricultural land
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TOWN OF GRANT AEA (2013)

Overview

- ◆ Dunn and Chippewa Counties; Towns of Grant, Colfax, Sand Creek, Otter Creek, Auburn, Cooks Valley
- ◆ 25,920 acres
- ◆ 15 petitioners
- ◆ Row crops, dairy

Goals

- ◆ Maintain, promote, and develop agricultural infrastructure
- ◆ Preserve and protect farmland from non-agricultural uses
- ◆ Adopt and implement stronger land use protections
- ◆ Develop an agriculture succession plan to reduce or eliminate barriers to business expansion and start-up
- ◆ Identify new markets and uses for agricultural products and by-products
- ◆ Create agricultural business plans to pursue new opportunities

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong legacy of farmland protection.
 - ◆ Numerous multi-generational farm families.
 - ◆ Corn grown in the AEA marketed to nearby ethanol plant.
 - ◆ Strong outreach and education efforts in the area focus on conservation of soil and water resources.
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TRENTON AEA (2011)

Overview

- ◆ Dodge County, Town of Trenton
- ◆ 26,492 acres
- ◆ 35 petitioners
- ◆ Cash-cropping, dairy, vegetables, livestock

Goals

- ◆ Preserve the agricultural land base
- ◆ Maintain the region's agribusinesses
- ◆ Spur local, regional and statewide agricultural growth

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong land use protections in place to ensure continued agricultural land use
- ◆ Significant investment made in the area by both producers and by the supporting agribusinesses such as ethanol plants, corn milling operations, agricultural cooperatives
- ◆ Strong cash-cropping area, but also has dairy (cow and goat), beef, hog, lamb and poultry, and vegetables which go to seven processing facilities
- ◆ Strong agriculture infrastructure in the area that is highly supportive of continued agriculture

VIENNA – DANE – WESTPORT AEA (2012)

Overview

- ◆ Dane County: Towns of Vienna, Dane and Westport
- ◆ 20,681 acres
- ◆ 9 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy and cash crops

Goals

- ◆ Maintain the area's rural character and agriculture as the primary land use
- ◆ Complement and support existing tools to limit encroachment of nonfarm development by creating incentives for farmers to sign farmland preservation agreements
- ◆ Create an environment that will maintain and expand agriculture as the primary economic activity in the area through the 21st century
- ◆ Expand opportunities for new markets, value-added activities and new uses for agricultural products and by-products

Items of Note

- ◆ Strong cooperative land use controls at village, town and county level
- ◆ Location of community digester developed through a partnership with county, state and private sources
- ◆ Significant investment in agricultural enterprises within the boundary
- ◆ Interest in developing local opportunities to protect the area from urban service area expansions

WINDSOR AEA (2010)

Overview

- ◆ Dane County; Town of Windsor
- ◆ 10,775 acres
- ◆ 15 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, swine, beef, corn, soybean, hay, wheat

Goal

- ◆ Safeguard productive land from non-farm development and maintain the vibrant farming community.

Items of Note

- ◆ Area located in the Arlington Prairie, which has excellent soil for agriculture

- ◆ Town has adopted a local purchase of development rights program, funded by a local tax levy
 - ◆ Cooperative boundary agreements have been adopted by the Town and the City of Sun Prairie and the Town and the Village of DeForest
 - ◆ Research facility (Seminis Vegetable Seeds) does vegetable research in the area
 - ◆ Town included in the DeForest Area Economic Opportunity Study
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WEST POINT AEA (2014)

Overview

- ◆ Columbia County: Town of West Point
- ◆ 15,888
- ◆ 21 petitioners
- ◆ Dairy, beef, row crop

Goals

- ◆ Preserve productive farmland and farming to support the local and regional economy and to recognize and preserve the agricultural history and culture of the town
- ◆ Maintain and promote a high level of conservation practices on farmland to help protect vital wildlife habitat and soil and water quality.
- ◆ Slow the fragmentation of agricultural lands and limit encroachment of non-farm development on agricultural lands to reduce land use conflicts.
- ◆ Maximize and strengthen farmland preservation efforts by providing incentives to landowners to retain and preserve agricultural lands.
- ◆ Support and preserve multi-generational farms.
- ◆ Promote cooperation between farm and non-farm residents.
- ◆ Provide education on farming, farm organizations, and farm related activities.
- ◆ Support and encourage agricultural diversity
- ◆ Modernize agricultural operations to remain competitive.
- ◆ Strengthen agribusiness infrastructure by encouraging and attracting new agribusiness as well as promoting the maintenance, expansion and modernization of the existing agribusinesses.
- ◆ Encourage renewable energy technologies and innovation for other sustainable practices.
- ◆ Promote both conventional and alternative agricultural practices and uses that are sustainable.

Items of Note

- ◆ Over 40% of the area owned by farmers who participate in the state's farmland preservation program
- ◆ Agricultural tourism opportunities in the area highlight the heritage and contribute to the local economy
- ◆ Recognition of the value of the nearby urban areas as a market for locally grown products
- ◆ Substantial reinvestments to existing operations of over \$10 million over the past decade
- ◆ Significant service and supply businesses and processing facilities support agriculture in identified area
- ◆ Provisions for the transfer of development rights is incorporated into land division ordinance adopted in 2013